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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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BMTC's clean, green alternative is taking a dangerous turn — with 15 accidents involving electric buses having claimed 14 lives in the last 14 months, we have a serious problem

THE DANGER BUS

Outsourced drivers lack required experience, say insiders

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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Once seen as a green solution for the city, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) electric-buses are now earning a deadly reputation as accidents surge. The reason many is that many of these buses have untrained, outsourced drivers hired under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model.

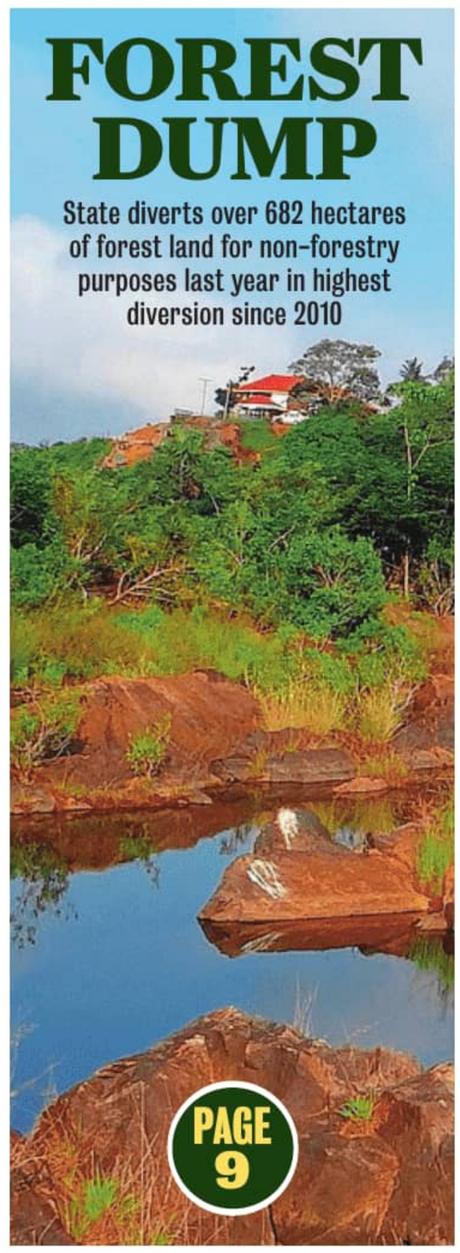
Electric buses were introduced by BMTC to offer a clean, green alternative to Bengaluru's chaotic traffic. But the deadly accidents they are involved in has put them under scrutiny. In the past 14 months alone, over 15 accidents involving e-buses have claimed 14 lives, turning what was meant to be an eco-friendly blessing into a growing public safety concern.

Sources within BMTC and transport unions point to a root cause: Outsourcing of drivers under the GCC model, where private companies operating e-buses are allowed to appoint their own drivers.

Most of these drivers, insiders say, lack sufficient experience—many are former truck drivers or newly licenced individuals, who are unfamiliar with handling large passenger vehicles in city traffic.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

"Many of the drivers appointed by the contractors are either driving buses for the first time or come from non-passenger driving backgrounds — BMTC official


FOREST DUMP
State diverts over 682 hectares of forest land for non-forestry purposes last year in highest diversion since 2010
PAGE 9

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HPC clears alternate metro alignment

Revised alignment via Goraguntepalya Junction is expected to decrease construction heights, simplify engineering challenges, reduce cost significantly and improve traffic flow

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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

By opting for a realignment of the Phase-3 Metro corridor, the Karnataka government is set to save a substantial Rs 669 crore in construction costs. The High-Powered Committee (HPC), chaired by Chief Secretary Dr Shalini Rajneesh, has approved this major shift, which will also lower the construction height and enhance traffic integration. According to a copy of the HPC decision accessed by Bangalore Mirror, the revised alignment will pass through Air Force and ALISDA land via Goraguntepalya Junction, replacing the earlier plan to traverse the Peenya Industrial Area and the existing Metro station.

The revised plan pertains to Corridor-1 of the 44.65-km Phase-3 Metro project, stretching from JP Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura. In the original Detailed Project Report (DPR), the alignment from Kanteerava Studio Flyover to Yeshwanthpura Railway Yard — a 2.513-km stretch — was to pass over the Peenya industrial belt, including a complex elevated double decker system over the existing Phase-1 Metro station.

New alignment also integrates seamlessly with both the existing Phase-1 Metro stations at Peenya and Goraguntepalya and includes flyover loops to streamline vehicular traffic

This design involved constructing piers up to 46.5 metres height, with 61 portal beams and over 1,100 foundation piles — all of which posed major engineering and safety challenges, in addition to pushing costs sky-high.

The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), during a detailed PowerPoint presentation before the HPC, pointed out the significant risks and logistical difficulties involved in the DPR-suggested plan, including navigating steep road gradients, shifting a major 1.8-metre diameter water pipeline, and constructing massive piers above a busy transport corridor.

In light of these hurdles, BMRCL proposed an alternate 2.305-km alignment via Goraguntepalya Junction, making use of available Defence and ALISDA land. The new alignment would avoid complex flyover interactions at Peenya, reduce maximum structural height to 35 metres, and dramatically cut down on the number of piers and portal beams needed — from 61 to just 14.

This alignment also integrates seamlessly with both the existing Phase-1 Metro stations at Peenya and Goraguntepalya, via Foot Over Bridges (FOBs), and includes flyover loops to streamline vehicular traffic heading toward BEL Circle, Hebbal, and the airport. The alternate proposal was earlier reviewed by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials during an inspection in February 2025, with all stakeholders reportedly in agreement. Defence authorities have also shown willingness to part with the required land, smoothing the way for execution.

Following detailed deliberations, the HPC approved the realignment, highlighting key advantages such as reduced construction heights, a shorter alignment, simplified engineering challenges, significant cost savings (from Rs 2,249 crore to Rs 1,580 crore), improved traffic flow at Goraguntepalya, and the availability of Defence and ALISDA lands for acquisition. However, the committee emphasised that the proposal would still require formal approval from the BMRCL Board and administrative clearance from the state government. With the HPC's go-ahead, BMRCL is now set to pursue a more efficient, commuter-friendly, and cost-effective alignment for Bengaluru's expanding Metro network.

THINGS TO DO

01 Star struck

Vijay Karnataka, in collaboration with BBMP and Police Department, is organising VK Street Sambrama, offering visitors a chance to spend the day with celebrities. **Where: Rangoli Metro Art Centre, MG Road; When: August 9, 4 pm to 8 pm**

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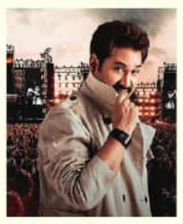
02 Folk fusion

Folk legend Mame Khan will be performing with his Rock N Roots Project, bringing his signature blend of Rajasthani folk, Sufi energy, and contemporary fusion. The show features iconic tracks like Kesariya Balam and Chaudhary, reimagined with a modern sound and full live band. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: August 8 and 9, 7 pm**

03 Craft haven

The Indian Artisans' Haat, jointly organised by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror, is bringing handlooms, textiles, jewellery, and decorative items from across India, presenting diverse cultural and artisanal heritage under one roof. **Where: Rangoli Metro Art Centre, MG Road; When: Until August 10**

04 Timeless hits



Kumar Sanu, known or his countless iconic hit songs, is set to take the stage and mesmerise the audience with his timeless, soulful music. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: August 9, 6 pm**

05 Clinical synergy

To mark the 20th anniversary of the Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing, a 2-day RCI-CRE approved hands-on workshop is being held to provide hands-on training in evidence-based clinical practices for aphasia rehabilitation. **Where: The United Theological College, Benson Town; When: August 8 and 9**

Only fruit trees in campuses

To avoid clashes with the Forest Department, Karnataka's Higher Education Department has decided to instruct all universities to plant only fruit-bearing trees on their campuses.

The move follows disputes over tree felling, especially when the species fall under the Forest Department's jurisdiction, requiring mandatory clearance before removal. Currently, many universities, including Bangalore University with its 1,200-acre Jnanabharathi campus, grow valuable trees like teak, sandalwood, and honne. These have not only led to bureaucratic hurdles for developmental works but also incidents of sandalwood theft, prompting security concerns.

The decision comes after the Forest Department questioned why certain campuses were being turned into "deemed forests" due to the presence of protected tree species. While Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar says the step is meant to prevent unnecessary conflicts, environmentalist and actor Suresh Heblikar has criticised it, arguing that tree species should be chosen based on soil nutrition and biodiversity needs, not by government mandate. **— BMB**

K'taka students win Chevening scholarships

In a first-of-its-kind initiative by the Karnataka government in collaboration with the British Deputy High Commission, five women from the state have been selected for the prestigious Chevening programme, securing fully funded opportunities to pursue master's degrees in the UK. Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar and British Deputy High Commissioner to Karnataka, Chandru Iyer, announced the winners at a ceremony in Bengaluru, wishing them success on their academic journey. State government and the British High Commission will jointly contribute Rs 40 lakh, or Rs 20 lakh each. **— BMB**

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6	Doddaballapur	K MOHAN KUMAR	49	B02	MEDIUM	01/04/14
7	Doddaballapur	RAJU HK	50	B02	MEDIUM	01/04/19
8	Doddaballapur	C.N. RAVIKUMAR	74	A01	SMALL	01/04/19
9	Doddaballapur	K.N.SATISH	79	A01	SMALL	01/04/22
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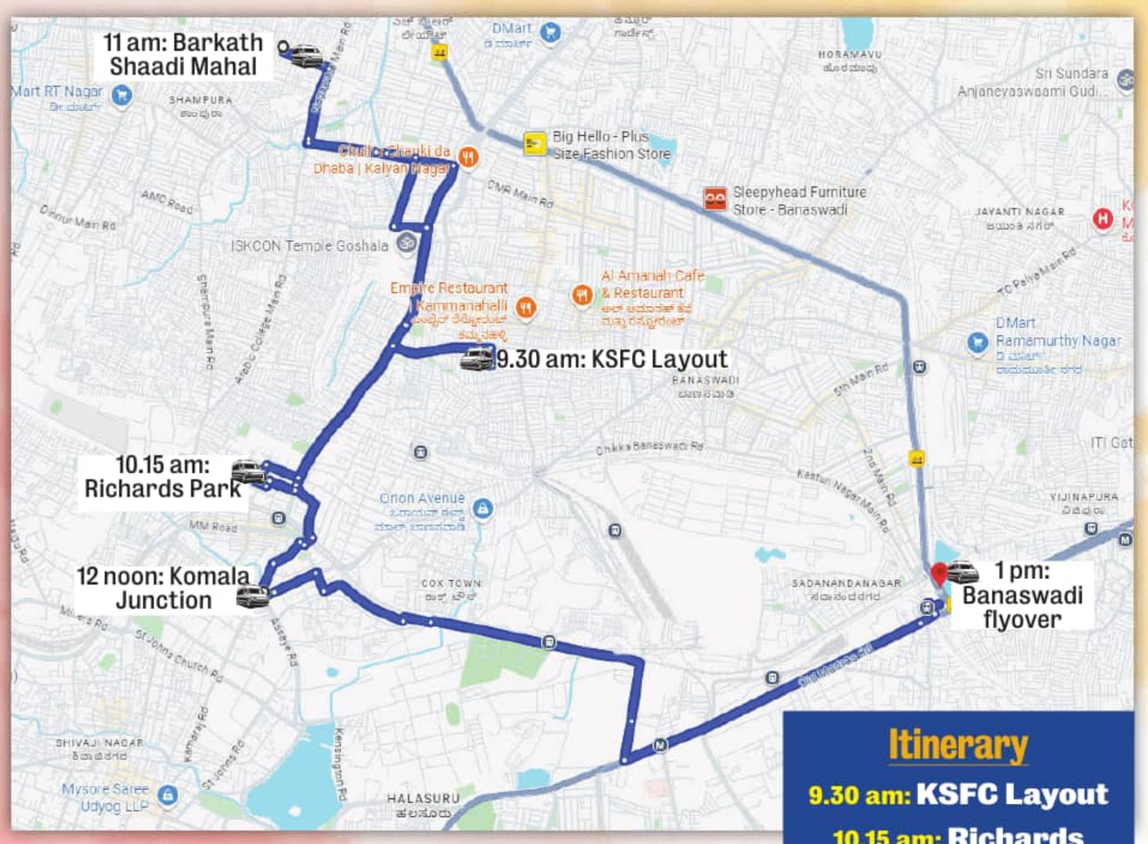

Itinerary

9.30 am: KSFC Layout

10.15 am: Richards Park

11 am: Barkath Shaadi Mahal, Govindapura, Nagawara

12 noon: Komala Junction

1 pm: Banaswadi flyover

MY VOICE BangaloreMirror

Times Group publication Bangalore Mirror is coming closer to you.

We have always been eager to understand the needs of Bengalureans so we are starting a first-of-its-kind initiative where our reporters step out of the newsroom and into your neighbourhood.

We're not just delivering the news to your doorstep — we're showing up to listen, engage, and spotlight the civic issues that matter to you. This Sunday marks the debut of this bold new experience. Meet the Bangalore Mirror team, share your concerns, and watch your voice make headlines — and impact.

To kick off this initiative, members of Eshanya Bengalurina Nagarikara Kalyana Mahavedike, helped us finalise five locations to facilitate residents welfare associations of the areas to highlight various issues that have been pending for quite some time. Murali Simhadri, president, Eshanya Bengalurina Nagarikara Kalyana Mahavedike, in consultation with residents welfare associations, helped chalk out the route map.

Your Voice Matters... This Sunday. Be There.

And for everyone who wants to subscribe to Bangalore Mirror, here's a number you can call: 7259458080

Change begins with a conversation. And we're listening

Ramya threat case: With another arrest, 6 accused in custody

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) on Friday arrested another accused in connection with sending obscene and threatening messages to actress and former MP Ramya on social media.

The arrested accused has been identified as Pramod Gowda (20), a resident of KR Pura. According to police, he is the first accused in the case and had sent the messages from an Instagram account named PramodGowda-87, created using his friend's mobile phone. He was taken into custody on Thursday night and is currently being interrogated.

With this arrest, the total number of people held in the case has risen to six. Earlier, the CCB had arrested Bhuvan Gowda, Rajesh, T Obanna, Gangadhar, and Manjunath all from Koppal.

Ramya had lodged a complaint with City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh on July 28, alleging that individuals claiming to be fans of actor Darshan had sent her vulgar messages and death threats through social media. The FIR was initially registered at the Cyber Police Station and later transferred to the CCB. Police said Ramya had received threats from 43 Instagram accounts. The hunt for the remaining accused is ongoing. **BMB**

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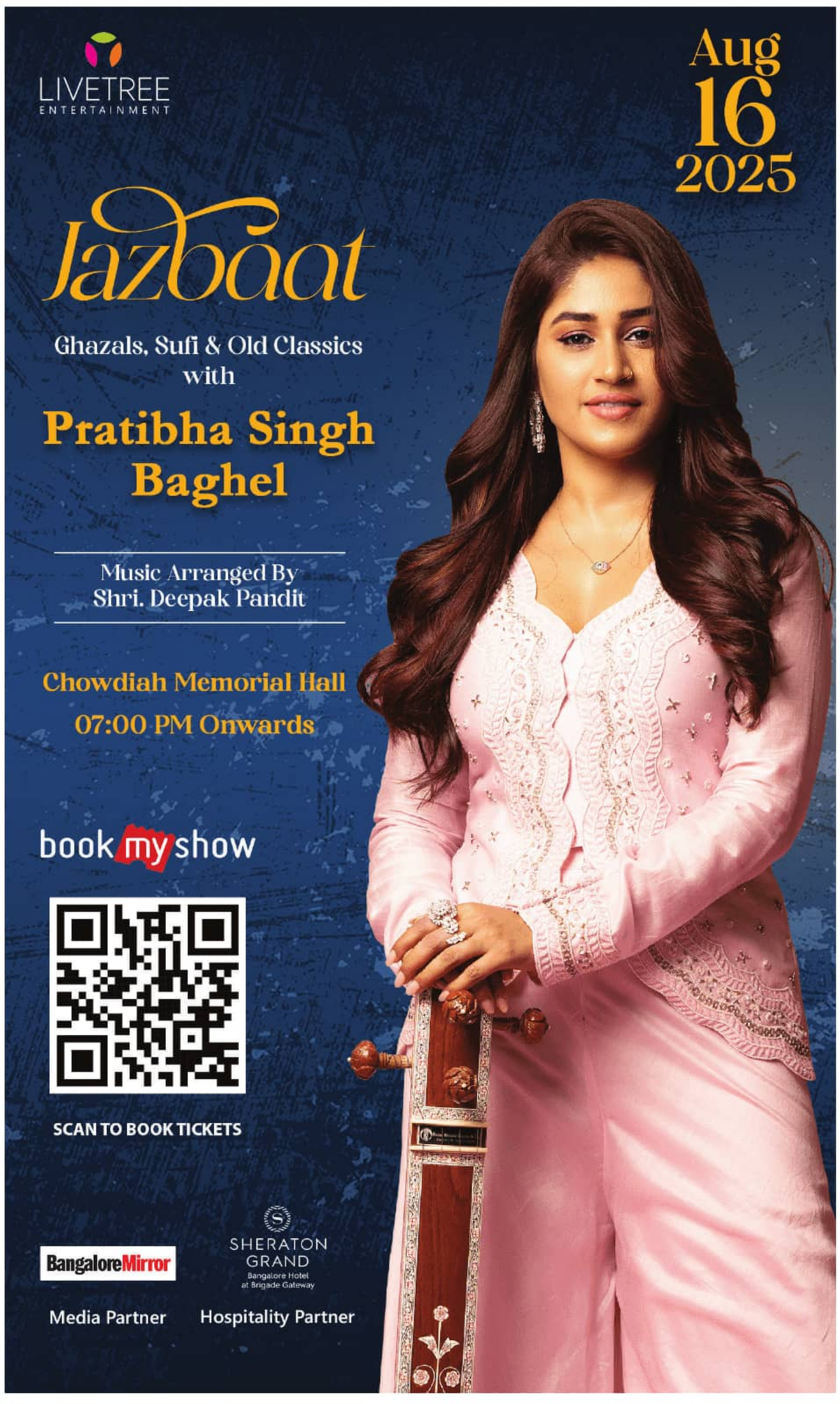
Animal-friendly force

Three-hour workshops were organised for police officers of the Bengaluru City Police Commissionerate and officials of the Animal Husbandry Department, Bengaluru Urban, by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals India (PETA India). The workshop dealt with various issues that arise while combating cruelty to animals.

Nearly 300 police officers, including police head constables, assistant sub-inspectors, sub-inspectors, and police inspectors, from all zones of the Bengaluru City Police, gathered at the Police Commissioner's office on August 7 for the workshop, stated a press release issued by PETA India on Friday.

On August 6, a similar workshop was conducted for assistant directors and veterinary officers of the Animal Husbandry Department. **PTI**



Bidadi lands attract buyers eyeing long-term growth

The picturesque neighbourhood around Bidadi, just off Mysuru Road, is fast becoming one of Bengaluru's most sought-after locations for plot buyers. Once known primarily for weekend drives and its lush greenery, the area is now attracting serious attention from investors and homebuilders.

Local realtors report a sharp rise in inquiries over the past year, driven by competitive land prices, improved road connectivity, and the promise of upcoming infrastructure upgrades. "Interest has shot up significantly in recent months," says real estate agent Ravi Kumar. "This pocket offers the perfect balance—affordable plots today with strong potential for appreciation as development picks up."

For buyers like Priya Deshmukh, the choice was clear. "I had been looking for land in Bengaluru for months, but prices closer to the city were way over budget," she says. "When I visited the Big Banyan Tree area, I was impressed by the peace, greenery, and easy access via Mysuru Road. With the metro inching closer, it felt like the right time to invest."

The location benefits from proximity to major employment hubs, reputed schools,

hospitals, and commercial zones, while still offering a calm, semi-rural setting. Experts believe this blend of nature and connectivity is exactly what urban buyers are now seeking.

With land values expected to climb as infrastructure projects materialise, the Big Banyan Tree belt appears poised to evolve from a scenic weekend stopover into one of the region's most promising real estate corridors.

-Prakash VL

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Farmhouse investments promise profit and peace

Rising urban stress is pushing city dwellers to invest in farmlands around Bengaluru and Mysuru. These plots are now transformed into planned farmhouse communities offering leisure, income, and sustainability. Located near Mysuru–Bannur Road, these retreats boast resort-like amenities and cultivated land yielding fruits, spices, and vegetables. Better connectivity via the Peripheral Ring Road fuels demand. Buyers see fourfold benefits: property appreciation, agricultural income, vacation use, and timber profits—making these farms a perfect blend of lifestyle upgrade and revenue generation.-BMB

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CREDAI BENGALURU

Halasuru locals demand fair, full drain clearance

BBMP criticised for selective digging, delays, and ignoring obstacles; residents demand fairness and complete desilting of entire Car Street stretch

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents on Car Street in Halasuru are concerned about the slow progress of developmental works, which they attribute to a few illegally constructed doorsteps encroaching on the road. However, they have expressed gratitude to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for sanctioning funds towards infrastructure improvement. The BBMP has allocated ₹5 crore for the comprehensive development of Car Street and the surrounding cross roads near Shri Someshwara Temple.

The residents want the BBMP authorities to direct the contractor to construct the drains on both sides of the road by following the norms. They want the contractor to avoid curves while constructing the drain to protect property owners who encroach on the road.

"We are unhappy with the delay in completing the drain work. I urge BBMP officials not to bow to pressure from a few property owners who have encroached on the road. Electric cables still lie inside the drain. What is the point of constructing a roadside drain if obstacles aren't cleared to ensure smooth rainwater flow to the nearest stormwater drain?" asks BR Chandran, a local social activist. Chandran said he has already complained to BBMP officials and Bescom engineers about cables and electric poles obstructing roadside drains. "They have assured me that all hurdles will be removed to allow smooth water flow during the monsoon. Bescom must also shift an electrical transformer that was installed on the road. I urge the authorities to ensure proper standards and quality in the construction of the roadside drain," he said.

Left: Doorsteps are main hurdle to desilt the drain on Car Street; Right: Encroachments on Car Street are hampering the progress of the construction of the drain

"We are unhappy with the delay in completing the drain work. What's the point of constructing roadside drains if cables and encroachments aren't cleared – BR Chandran, social activist

Expressing a similar opinion, KS Ramesh, a resident, said the contractor failed to remove front steps of a building on the left side of the road, hindering desiltation work. "I believe the purpose of spending taxpayers' money is defeated if the contractor does not clear silt along the entire drain stretch," said Ramesh, urging strict supervision of the work.

Blaming the BBMP authorities for not following the norms, Shiva, a resident, said that he objected to workers digging in front of his house without digging or clearing encroachment on the road by a few property owners. "I have no objection constructing the drain in front of my house if the BBMP authority's clear encroachment on the road. I want the BBMP contractor not to be biased towards property owners who have no influence with politicians", he said.

Objecting to the BBMP contractor engaging workers to dig at selective stretches on the road, SB Ravi, a resident, said that the roadside drains should be straight without curves.

When informed, BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer (Halasur ward) said that he has been trying to counsel and convince a few property owners who have encroached on the road. "I will visit the spot again to convince the property owners to clear encroachment on the road. I have already informed my higher authorities about the hurdles on Car Street", he said.

Surprise raids to bust PoP idols

BBMP Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has instructed officials to carry out surprise inspections at markets and immersion points to catch anyone making, selling, or immersing Ganesh idols made of Plaster of Paris (PoP) or painted with chemical colours during Ganesh Chaturthi. The statewide ban, enforced across Karnataka, aims to protect rivers, lakes, and groundwater from pollution.

PoP idol makers had approached the court seeking permission to sell their existing stock, citing the risk of major financial losses. However, the court dismissed their plea, allowing strict enforcement. Authorities have appealed to devotees to opt for eco-friendly clay idols and natural colours, warning that harmful chemicals in PoP idols threaten aquatic ecosystems and drinking water sources. — BMB

City split plan puts projects on hold

With the state government pushing ahead with the plan to split BBMP into five separate city corporations, officials have been instructed to halt the invitation of new tenders, except for essential works. A draft notification was issued on July 19, allowing the public 30 days to file objections. A high-level committee led by the Urban Development Additional Secretary is overseeing the transition, and two meetings have already been conducted to finalise the governance framework. The official rollout date for the restructuring is set for September 2. Department heads have been asked to prepare action plans for the 2025–26 budget, but only 50% of the proposed projects will be approved — limited to priority sectors such as education and healthcare. All other new proposals, public inputs, and discretionary grant requests from ministers or senior BBMP officials are on hold until the restructuring concludes.

— BMB

BWSSB struggles despite revised water tariffs

Even after revising water tariffs in April — the first hike in nearly a decade — the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) continues to face a financial crunch. Though the board supplies treated Cauvery water to over 1.5 crore residents, it is still struggling to break even. Before the tariff revision, BWSSB's monthly income was ₹119 crore, while its operating cost stood at ₹200 crore. Including debt servicing and other financial commitments, the total monthly outflow reached ₹300 crore.

Following the tariff hike, revenue saw a modest increase: ₹147 crore in April, ₹159.6 crore in May, and ₹190.99 crore in June. Despite a 20% reduction in the monthly deficit, the projected annual shortfall remains a steep ₹972 crore — far from the ₹500 crore gain the hike was expected to generate. A senior BWSSB official blamed the gap on the slow rollout of the Cauvery Stage V project.

Only 75,000 of 4 lakh planned connections are complete. Just 2,019 people opted for the "Sarala Cauvery" scheme in three months. With rising groundwater levels, many prefer borewells. BWSSB now targets illegal connections and explores green technology. — BMB

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Space encroachment

Jayanagar

An illegal partition wall has been constructed, encroaching upon public/common space and causing obstruction in 4th Block, Jayanagar. Authorities have been alerted for action.

Pollution alert

Parappana Agrahara

Garbage is frequently dumped and burned at night opposite a shopping center on Kudlu Main Road, Parappana Agrahara. The smoke lingers for days, troubling apartment residents. Immediate civic action is needed.

Drainage crisis

Marathahalli

Frequent blockages in the UGD system near a nursing home in Marathahalli are causing sewage to seep into nearby sumps. The foul-smelling, contaminated water is unsafe for use. Immediate rectification is urgently required.

Nelamangala plots lure buyers with green promise

Once an industrial belt, Nelamangala is attracting homebuyers seeking space, affordability, and clean surroundings—especially as connectivity and infrastructure projects gather pace

Just a few years ago, Nelamangala was seen as a quiet industrial belt on the northwestern outskirts of Bengaluru, known mostly for its factories, warehouses, and proximity to Tumakuru Road. Today, it is rapidly transforming into one of the city's most promising real estate destinations, attracting homebuyers and investors eager to tap into its growth potential.

This surge in demand is driven by a combination of factors—strategic location, enhanced connectivity, affordable land prices, and a wave of upcoming infrastructure projects. Located just 27 km from the city centre, Nelamangala sits at the intersection of National Highways 48 and 75, offering seamless access to Bengaluru, Mangaluru, and northern Karnataka. The proposed Bengaluru Peripheral Ring Road and the expansion of the Tumakuru Expressway are expected to further boost connectivity and accelerate property appreciation.

For many buyers, Nelamangala offers a rare opportunity to own spacious plots and independent homes at prices significantly lower than in central Bengaluru. "We were looking for a peaceful place with good road connectivity, but every location closer to the city was either too congested or too expensive," says S. Rajesh, a software professional who recently purchased a 1,500 sq. ft. plot. "In Nelamangala, we found a spacious property at nearly half the price of Peenya or Yeshwanthpur. Plus, with the new expressway, my commute has become much faster."

SHATRUNJAY SHARAN

Nelamangala offers spacious plots at lower prices

Realtors confirm that the interest is rising not only from local residents but also from NRIs and buyers across Karnataka. "Over the last 18 months, we've seen a steady inflow of investors who recognise Nelamangala's potential," says Manjunath Gowda, a local realtor specialising in plotted developments. "Many are betting on land value appreciation once the Peripheral Ring Road becomes operational. The combination of industrial growth, warehousing hubs, and residential layouts makes this market truly unique."

Developers are also stepping in. Several well-known builders have launched plotted layouts, villa projects, and mid-segment apartments in the area. These projects come equipped with modern amenities such as clubhouses, landscaped gardens, and play areas—catering to both end-users and investors alike. With industries in nearby Dabaspet, Peenya, and Tumakuru offering employment opportunities, Nelamangala is attracting professionals who want to live near their workplace while enjoying a quieter lifestyle.

> **"Over the last 18 months, we've seen a steady inflow of investors who recognise Nelamangala's potential"**
>
> –Manjunath Gowda, a local realtor

Buyers also appreciate the blend of affordability and nature. "I grew up in a small town, so I value open spaces and greenery," says Kavya Prakash, a first-time homebuyer who booked a villa plot last month. "In Nelamangala, you still see farmland and wide roads. It feels like the best of both worlds—close to the city, but away from its chaos."

Industry experts say the momentum is only building. "Once the planned infrastructure comes up, prices here could rise by 30–40 per cent," says Gowda. "Those who invest now stand to gain significantly."

–Prakash VL

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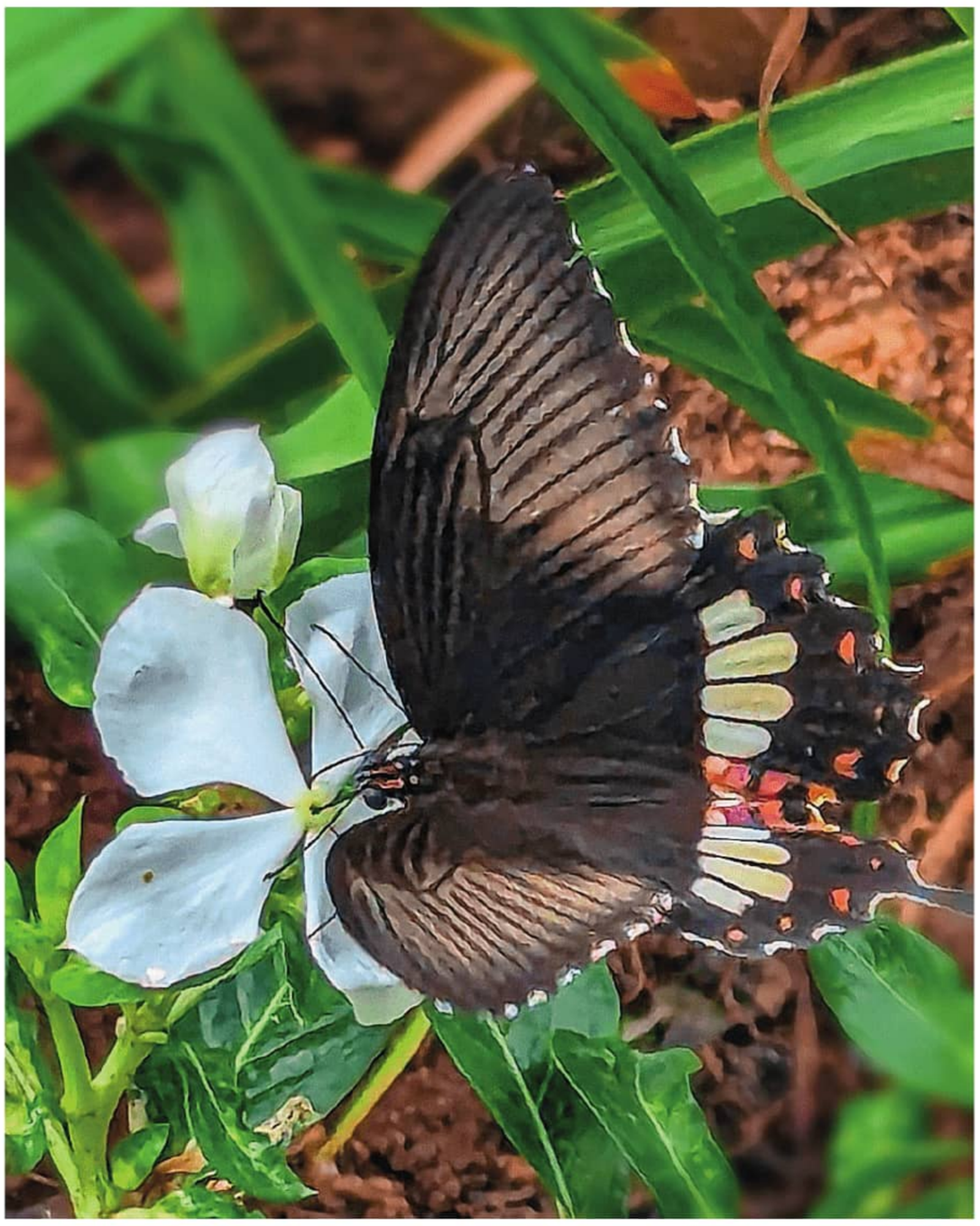
BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO



WHOLE NEW LOOK Every butterfly was a caterpillar once....old adage... but so true and applicable to each one of us who transforms in this journey of life to be as beautiful and delicate as a butterfly which weathers all the storms of life with elegance and grace. Caption and image by reader BM reader **Hanish Sharma**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

This year, a bright moon will dampen viewing at the time of peak early Wednesday morning, so some experts recommend waiting a week or so to glimpse shooting stars against a darker sky. The Perseids "are an incredible meteor shower," said Thaddeus LaCoursiere, planetarium program coordinator at the Bell Museum in St. Paul, Minnesota. Under dark skies with no moon, the Perseids can produce between 60 to 100 meteors per hour, he said. Since the moon will be around 84% full during the peak, skywatchers might expect between 10 to 20 meteors per hour, according to the American Meteor Society. As the Earth orbits the sun, several times a year it passes through debris left by passing comets and sometimes asteroids. The source of the Perseids is debris from comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle. When these fast-moving space rocks enter Earth's atmosphere, the debris encounters new resistance from the air and becomes very hot, eventually burning up. You don't need special equipment to see the various meteor showers that flash across annually, just a spot away from city lights. The best time to watch a meteor shower is in the early predawn hours. — AP

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

It is time to clean up key roads in B'luru East

Fallen poles, gravel, and drain obstructions cleared after BBMP Commissioner's inspection across CV Raman Road, Mekhri Circle, and Palace Guttahalli

BBMP's Eastern Zone Commissioner Snehal R on Friday directed officials to clear fallen electric poles and damaged signboards along the right side of CV Raman Road towards Mehkri Circle without delay. The directive was issued during her inspection of key eastern zone stretches, including Mekhri Circle, HQTC, and Palace Road. She reviewed sanitation and maintenance issues and stressed the need for immediate action to ensure public safety and uphold cleanliness across these prominent city roads.

Civic works gain urgency

At the HQTC Gate area, BBMP's Eastern Zone Commissioner Snehal R instructed the prompt removal of loose gravel and small stones surrounding newly installed drain slabs, cautioning that such debris could pose safety risks to pedestrians and vehicles. She also ordered restoration of the damaged footpath in front of HQTC to ensure a safe passage for pedestrians. At Mekhri Circle, Snehal R directed the removal of cement boulders placed along the footpath and instructed officials to clean the pedestrian pathway and kerbs thoroughly. She emphasised that footpaths must remain free of obstacles to ensure public convenience. At Palace Guttahalli Flyover, the Commissioner told civic workers to maintain consistent sweeping and proper upkeep on both the flyover deck and the area beneath. She also flagged the cluttered space in front of the Porsche showroom, where unused wires, debris, and broken materials were obstructing the footpath. Officials were instructed to clear these immediately to provide a safe, clean, and uninterrupted pedestrian walkway.

Marshals and officials at work on a road in Bengaluru East

> **"Such negligence not only creates unhygienic conditions but also poses a safety hazard**
> – Snehal R, BBMP's Eastern Zone Commissioner

Action against wastewater discharge

In addition, she directed the clearance of gravel, small stones, mud, and waste from roads and footpaths in the inspected areas, noting that such materials not only hinder pedestrian movement but also risk damaging vehicles. A particular concern was raised regarding Sumith Apartment, where wastewater was seen flowing directly onto the footpath.

The Commissioner ordered that a notice be issued to the apartment management, instructing them to take corrective steps to stop the discharge. She reiterated that such negligence creates unhygienic conditions and poses a serious safety hazard. — BMB

BUST FAKE NEWS WITH BANGALORE MIRROR

Write to us at mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

A meeting that never was

PIB debunks fake news about Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw meeting 'Udaipur Files' producer

Claim: Union Minister met film producer; Fact: No such meeting took place, says PIB

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) has strongly refuted recent media claims suggesting a closed-door meeting between Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Udaipur Files producer Amit Jani.

The PIB, through its official fact-checking handle on August 5, labelled the claim as "Fake News" and clarified that no such meeting ever took place.

"Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw has not held any such meeting," the PIB said on X. The viral claim originated from a news report that alleged a secretive interaction between the minister and Jani, who is known for producing the controversial film Udaipur Files. The report insinuated political backing or discussion regarding the film's release and its political implications, which triggered widespread speculation on social media platforms.

The government's fact-checking body reiterated that the Minister had no such engagement scheduled or held with Amit Jani. The clarification comes amid growing concerns over the spread of misinformation and politically sensitive fake news narratives that could potentially influence public opinion.

Film in radar

The Udaipur Files has been in the limelight for its controversial depiction of communal violence and has been a subject of intense debate among political and social circles. The purported meeting with a senior Union Minister added to the film's controversy, but PIB's intervention aims to curb the spread of unverified information.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has not issued any formal statement beyond the PIB clarification but has urged citizens and media platforms to rely on verified sources before sharing or publishing claims that could mislead the public. This incident underscores the importance of official fact-checking mechanisms like PIB Fact Check, which play a vital role in combating the growing tide of misinformation, especially involving high-level public officials and politically sensitive matters.

Information Ministry has urged citizens and media platforms to rely on verified sources before sharing or publishing claims

— IANS

'Cross-examination indispensable in fair trial'

The Karnataka High Court has reaffirmed the essential right to cross-examination in judicial proceedings, dismissing an application that sought to deny this right to plaintiffs in a commercial dispute.

Justice M Nagaprasanna upheld an order from the Commercial Court that dismissed a request filed by Sivagami N. The petitioner had sought to prohibit the plaintiffs from cross-examining her in the case related to the dissolution of Vinayaka Travels following the death of her husband in November 2020.

After the petitioner's late husband, a partner in the firm, passed away, the accounts of Vinayaka Travels were not settled, nor was his share of the firm's assets determined. Consequently, the remaining partners filed a suit in the Commercial Court seeking various monetary benefits payable by Sivagami N as the legal representative of the deceased partner.

On April 1, 2022, Sivagami filed a counter-claim requesting the settlement of the partnership firm's accounts as of the date of her husband's death, claiming approximately Rs 5 crore. She also applied for directions requiring the plaintiffs to provide the firm's financial statements. The Commercial Court ordered the production of these documents, a decision the respondents challenged. The High Court dismissed the challenge, maintaining that an adverse inference could be drawn due to the plaintiffs' non-compliance with the document request.

Subsequently, the partners withdrew their original suit, but the counter-claim proceeded. Sivagami then filed an application to deny the plaintiffs the right to cross-examine her, arguing that the lack of complete accounts warranted an adverse inference.

The Commercial Court rejected this application, a decision the High Court upheld. Justice Nagaprasanna emphasised that the right to cross-examine is a fundamental aspect of natural justice and cannot be removed except under exceptional circumstances.

IN COURT

"To deny the litigant right of cross-examination would not only become a truncate procedure, but would imperil justice itself," the court concluded, reinforcing the indispensable nature of cross-examination in legal adjudication. -BMB

SC denies gag order in Dharmasthala case

The Supreme Court refused to impose a gag order in the Dharmasthala mass burial case, stating that such an order would "stifle free speech." The court directed the trial judge to reconsider the matter.

The controversy arose after a former sanitation worker alleged that he was coerced under mortal threat to secretly bury numerous human remains within the sacred precincts of Dharmasthala between 1995 and 2014.

The bench comprising Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Manmohan declined to grant a gag order requested by the petitioners, who claimed that defamatory content published on news channels and social media was damaging their reputation.

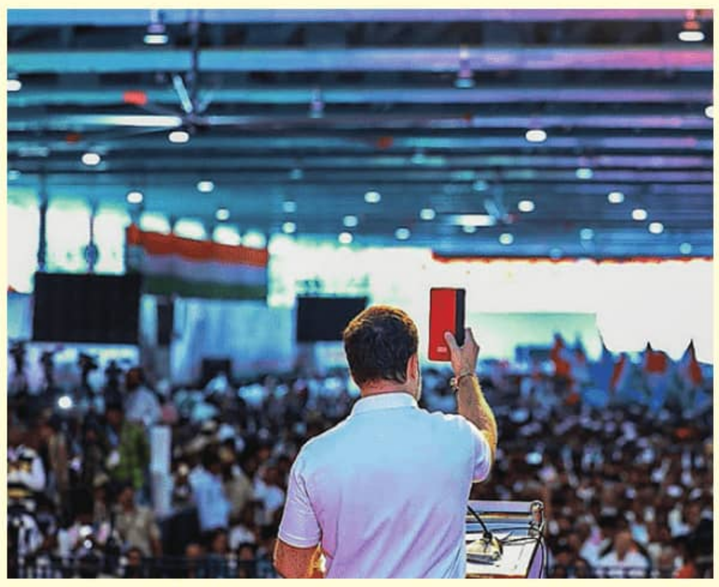
Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing the petitioners, stated that the former sanitation worker had informed the police about skeletons being buried in the temple area, leading to the registration of an FIR. Rohatgi highlighted that the portrayal of the petitioner and his brother on various media platforms was severely harming their reputation.

Rohatgi further requested protection for the petitioner, either by removing the social media reports or preventing their future publication. However, Justice Manmohan advised, "Let the trial court apply its mind afresh." -BMB

Rahul Gandhi alleges massive electoral fraud

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, addressed a massive protest gathering at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Friday, warning the Election Commission of India (ECI) against undermining the constitutional principle of 'one man, one vote'. Accusing the ECI of colluding with the BJP to commit large-scale electoral fraud, Gandhi claimed over one lakh votes were "stolen" in the Mahadevapura Assembly segment alone during the recent Lok Sabha elections. He alleged the malpractice involved duplicate voters, fake IDs, bulk registrations at single addresses, missing or unclear voter photos, and suspiciously high numbers of elderly new voters. Gandhi asserted that such manipulation was part of a wider national pattern, not confined to Karnataka, and challenged the ECI to release nationwide voters' lists and polling video footage to prove transparency.

Declaring that the Congress had "clear evidence" of collusion between the BJP and the poll body, Gandhi said the fraud was an attack on the poor and the very foundation of the Constitution. He said that the ECI must work for the Constitution and not for the ruling party. -BMB



Rahul Gandhi addressed a massive protest gathering at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Friday

Vishnuvardhan fans protest razing of tomb

Actor Vishnuvardhan's tomb at Abhiman Studios on Uttarahalli-Kengeri Road was removed overnight on Friday, prompting the legend's fans to stage a protest in front of the studio.

Vishnuvardhan's fans and association office bearers, who had gathered in front of the studio, shouted slogans condemning the incident. Protesters tried to enter the studio and a scuffle broke out between the police and the fans. The police took the protesters into custody.

Vishnu Sena Committee President Veerakaputra Srinivas has complained that the tomb located in the fan studio was razed on Thursday night despite the state government's assurances. "Vishnuvardhan's last rites were performed at Abhiman Studio in 2009. There was a small tower at the burial site. Our organisation had approached the court seven years ago to build a memorial here. However, neither the government nor Vishnuvardhan's family showed any interest in this. Therefore, the High Court dismissed the case six months ago. Accordingly, the Balanna family has now demolished the Samadhi Gopuram," Srinivas said. -BMB

Rise in forest land diversion raises concerns

While use of forest land for infrastructure projects is reducing forest cover, fresh encroachments and low rate of eviction from encroached areas is making situation worse, say conservationists

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Between April 2024 and March 2025, Karnataka diverted over 682 hectares of forest land for non-forestry purposes, the highest diversion recorded since 2010.

The majority of this, 431.35 hectares, has been diverted for mining and allied activities, 160.4 hectares is for a hydel power project, 54.04 hectares is for road projects, 29.62 hectares is for transmission lines, and 6.72 hectares is for railway and other projects.

With this, the total forest area diverted so far in Karnataka stands at 32,699.59 hectares.

The second highest annual diversion over the last 15 years was in 2020-21, when 442.27 hectares of forest land was diverted for other purposes.

Conservationists say given the total forest cover in Karnataka being less than 33 per cent, forest land diversion should not be allowed. The National Forest Policy of India recommends that at least 33 per cent of the total geographical area should be under forest cover to maintain ecological stability.

Conservationists say given the total forest cover in Karnataka being less than 33%, forest land diversion should not be allowed

Experts say that with many projects pending approval, forest land diversion in Karnataka is expected to surge in 2025-26

As of March 2025, the forest area in Karnataka is 21.21 per cent of its total geographical area. While the state's total area is 1,91,791 square kilometers, a little over 40,000 square kilometres is under forest cover.

Experts say that with many projects pending approval for a large swath of forest land diversion in Karnataka, this number is expected to surge in 2025-26.

"Over the last few months, multiple mining projects have been approved, and some are in the pipeline, pending approval in places such as Ballari, Chitradurga, etc. In some cases, exploration surveys are still to be approved. The forest land diversion figure will increase further this year," said a wildlife expert.

Conservationists say that while on one hand, diversion of forest land for various infrastructure projects is reducing the state's forest cover, on the other, fresh encroachments and a low rate of eviction from encroached forest areas are exacerbating the situation.

"The Forest Department has failed miserably in preventing fresh encroachments. Moreover, the eviction rate is poor across all the divisions. Adding insult to the injury, crores are being spent on afforestation activities. Plantation activities can never replace the richness and biodiversity of the Western Ghat forest," said a conservationist.

Karnataka Forest Department, in 2024-25, has registered 559 fresh forest encroachment cases, with the majority of cases from Shivamogga, followed by Kalburagi and Canara circles.

Boy killed over gaming addiction

A 50-year-old man surrendered before the Soladevanahalli police on Thursday, four days after allegedly murdering his 14-year-old nephew. The accused has been identified as Nagaprasad, a security guard residing in Kobarahalli, Vinayaka Layout. The victim, Amogha Keerthi, a seventh-standard student, had been staying with his uncle for the past eight months following his mother Shilpa's separation from her husband. According to police, Amogha had become increasingly obsessed with online gaming and often pressured his uncle for money. Upset with his behaviour, Nagaprasad allegedly killed the boy by slitting his throat with a kitchen knife around 4.30 am on Monday, after covering his face with clothes.

After committing the crime, he left the body at home and fled to Majestic, where he loitered for three days. With no money and after losing his bag, he eventually decided to surrender at the police station. -BMB

Electric buses going off-course?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Risky ride

BMTC introduced electric buses under the Smart City, FAME-II, and FAME-III schemes. Currently, 1,469 e-buses operate under this system, generating a daily revenue of around ₹1.89 crore. However, these buses are not driven by BMTC's trained drivers. Instead, private operators deploy their own recruits, often offering lower wages and compromising on training standards.

"Many of the drivers appointed by the contractors are either driving buses for the first time or come from non-passenger driving backgrounds," a senior BMTC official admitted. "This lack of experience is evident in the rising number of mishaps."

BMTC insiders reveal that trip completion pressure is intense on these drivers. While regular BMTC buses have a route cancellation rate of less than 2%, e-buses see up to 10% cancellations, amounting to 2,000–3,000 km of lost trips per day. Battery issues and charging delays add to the chaos. What's worse, drivers face pay cuts if they return to the depot even five minutes late or early. This punitive policy, drivers say, forces them to drive fast and recklessly to meet unrealistic time targets, often endangering commuters.

Helpline complaints against BMTC's e-bus drivers are on the rise, with passengers reporting issues like rash driving, skipping stops, phone use while driving, and misbehaviour. A senior official admitted that most recent complaints involve e-buses, indicating a deeper problem with driver conduct and safety standards.

With accident numbers and passenger complaints rising, transport unions and citizen activists are now demanding that BMTC itself should appoint and train drivers for all e-buses, regardless of the GCC model. "You can outsource buses, not safety," a union leader said.

As Bengaluru continues to expand its electric fleet, the question remains: At what cost is the city moving towards green mobility—especially when lives are at stake?

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Padmavathi Meda Narayana W/o Narayana Meda Krishnaiah R/o #202, No 27/2 2nd Floor,9th A Main, jayanagar 2nd Block, B'luru-560011 have changed my name to Padma Meda Narayana for all purposes.

Change Of Name

I ROOPA KRISHNAMURTHY, mother of AVNI AITHAL M, aged about 15 years, D/o. Madhusudan Gundur and Roopa Krishna Murthy, residing at No.32, Sanidhya, 16th Cross, MICO Layout, Begur Main Road, Hongasandra, Bangalore – 560 068, state that my daughter name has been changed from AVANI AITHAL to AVNI AITHAL M as per Aadhar Card and Birth Certificate.

I, Umme Iman K D/O Khuram Pasha # 2 11th D Cross padarayanapura Blr-26 have changed my name to Umme Iman for all purposes.

I, No 14817967W Sep Gaikwad Santosh Popat (Retd) want to change my son's name from Kunal to Gaikwad Kunal Santosh before notary pub Bangalore

I, Nitya Betegowda D/o Bettegowda Bagur Nanjegowda R/o # 7, Aashraya,1st Floor,3rd Cross,vidyanagar, Dasarahalli, B'luru 560057 have changed my name to Nithya Betegowda for all purposes.

I, Atul Gourav Jain, resident of Flat No.305 Kumari Woods and Winds Channasandra Kadugodi, have changed the name of my minor daughter, Parinidhi Jain, To Prisha Jain, with effect from 24th July 2025. The affidavit was attested by Veena J.

WE, DAVALASAHEB HUNASHIMARAD and MAJABEEN residing at No 637,15th Cross, Soundarya Nagar,Sidedahalli, Nagasandra Bangalore North,Bangalore. We have changed to my son's name from JAVED HUNASHIMARAD to JAVED D HUNASHIMARAD. Vide affidavit dated 07/08/2025 sworn before notary. N Mahesha Bangalore

I, Sharief Ahmed Siddiqe S/o Mohammed Ismail Siddiqe # 9/2 Blr-02 have changed my name to Shareef Ahamad for all purposes.

I, Fatima W/o Nazurulla K R/o 16/2 4/B Near Ilyas Nagar Fayazabad B'lore-560078 have changed my name to Fathima.

I, Shivakumar Umesh Hiremath S/o Umesh Hiremath R/o 102,1st Floor,Ramdhoot Complex Hubli-580029 have changed my name to Shivakumar Hiremath.

I, Arshiya Fatima Mohamed W/o Syed Muneer Mehdi R/o 119/A,3rd cross, Venkatswamappa Layout Chamundi Nagar B'lore-560032 have changed my name to Arshiya Fatima.

I, BHARATHESH B VALMIKI Aged about 39 years S/o Basavarajappa residing at No 163 Manjunatha nagar Airport road Hubil-580030 Camp at Hubil do hereby declare that BHARATHESH B VALMIKI & BHARATHESH WALMIKI both the names belongs to me only, & NAGARATHNA BHARATESH VALMIKI & NAGARATHNA both the names belongs to my spouse names

I,ZAHIDA KHANUM SUBHAN residing at #33,Baitul Aafia 5th Cross, Venkateswa mappa Layout, Near Sanjeevini Clinic, Chamundi Nagar, RT Nagar Post, Bangalore-560032. I have changed my name to ZAHIDA KHANUM. Vide affidavit dated 11/07/2025 sworn before notary. R VISHWANATH Bangalore.

I Anita Sangappa Ganager D/O, Sangappa R/o No 221 B, 7th Main Shantiniketan Layout, Arakere B G Road, Bengaluru - 560076 have changed my name to Anita Ganager.

I, JAVEDA BEGUM W/o. Mohammed Yakoob R/a #41, 1st floor, 2nd main, wajeed layout, Thanisandra main road, Bengaluru- 560077 have changed my name to JAVEEDA BEGUM vide affidavit dated 6.8.2025 before Notary M.Rajendra, Bangalore

I, GANGADHAR, aged 46 years, S/o. Muniyappa, Residing at No. 1296, Ambedkar Colony, Near Water Tank, Kudlu, Kudlu, Bengaluru - 560068, Karnataka, declare that GANGAPPA and GANGADHAR, both the names are belong to one and the same person myself only. Vide affidavit dated: 31.07.2025 before notary JAIN SWARNAMALA, Bengaluru.

LOST & FOUND

I, VENKATAPPA, Residing at No.15, Doddakammanahalli, Gottigere Post, B G Road, Bangalore – 560083, I have Lost my original Document of my Site No. 15 (Hakku Patra), Identification No. 001347 at Doddakammanahalli on 05.06.2025 at about 2 to 4 AM. I have given police complaint in this regard with Reference No. 1732937/2025 on 02.08.2025. If found, Please Call me on 9900809922

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In response: Intel CEO Lip-Bu Tan says he's "operated within highest legal and ethical standards" after Trump said he should resign

Fifth generation is ready

OpenAI launches GPT-5, a potential barometer for whether AI hype is justified

OpenAI on Thursday released the fifth generation of the artificial intelligence technology that powers ChatGPT, a product update that's being closely watched as a measure of whether generative AI is advancing rapidly or hitting a plateau.

GPT-5 arrives more than two years after the March 2023 release of GPT-4, bookending a period of intense commercial investment, hype and worry over AI's capabilities.

In anticipation, rival Anthropic released the latest version of its own chatbot, Claude, earlier in the week, part of a race with Google and other competitors in the US and China to leapfrog each other on AI benchmarks. Meanwhile, longtime OpenAI partner Microsoft said it will incorporate GPT-5 into its own AI assistant, Copilot.

Expectations are high for the newest version of OpenAI's flagship model because the San Francisco company has long positioned its technical advancements as a path toward artificial general intelligence, or AGI, a technology that is supposed to surpass humans at economically valuable work.

It is also trying to raise huge amounts of money to get there, in part to pay for the costly computer chips and data centers needed to build and run the technology.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman described the new model as a "significant step along our path to AGI" but mostly focused on its usability to the 700 million people he says use ChatGPT each week.

"It's like talking to an expert — a legitimate PhD-level expert in anything, any area you need, on demand," Altman said at a launch event livestreamed Thursday.

It may take some time to see how people use the new model — now available, with usage limits, to anyone with a free ChatGPT account. The Thursday event focused heavily on ChatGPT's use in coding, an area where Anthropic is seen as a leader, and featured a guest appearance by the CEO of coding software maker Cursor, an important Anthropic customer.

OpenAI's presenters also spent time talking about safety improvements to make the chatbot "less deceptive" and stop it from producing harmful responses to "cleverly worded" prompts that could bypass its guardrails.

The Associated Press reported Wednesday on a study that showed ChatGPT was providing dangerous information about drugs and self-harm to researchers posing as teenagers.

At a technical level, GPT-5 shows "modest but significant improvements" on the latest benchmarks, but when compared to GPT-4, it also looks very different and resets OpenAI's flagship technology in a way that could set the stage for future innovations, said John Thickstun, an assistant professor of computer science at Cornell University.

> **"It's like talking to an expert — a legitimate PhD-level expert in anything, any area you need, on demand**
>
> Sam Altman, OpenAI CEO

"I'm not a believer that it's the end of work and that AI is just going to solve all humanity's problems for it, but I do think there's still a lot of headroom for them, and other people in this space, to continue to improve the technology," he said. "Not just capitalizing on the gains that have already been made."

All about OpenAI

OpenAI started in 2015 as a nonprofit research laboratory to safely build AGI and has since incorporated a for-profit company with a valuation that has grown to $300 billion.

The company has tried to change its structure since the nonprofit board ousted Altman in November 2023. He was reinstated days later.

It has not yet reported making a profit but has run into hurdles escaping its nonprofit roots, including scrutiny from the attorneys general in California and Delaware, who have oversight of nonprofits, and a lawsuit by Elon Musk, an early donor to and founder of OpenAI who now runs his own AI company.

Most recently, OpenAI has said it will turn its for-profit company into a public benefit corporation, which must balance the interests of shareholders and its mission.

OpenAI is the world's third most valuable private company and a bellwether for the AI industry, with an "increasingly fragile moat" at the frontier of AI, according to banking giant JPMorgan Chase, which recently made a rare decision to cover the company despite it not being publicly traded.

The inability of a single AI developer to have a "sustained competitive edge" could increasingly force companies to compete on lowering the prices of their AI products, the bank said in a report last month. **AP**

Tesla to streamline AI chip research

Tesla will streamline its AI chip research to focus on its development of inference chips used to run AI models and make real-time decisions, CEO Elon Musk said, after a media report he had ordered the closure of the in-house Dojo supercomputer team.

Bloomberg News on Thursday cited people familiar with the matter as saying Musk had ordered the Dojo team to be disbanded, with team leader Peter Bannon departing the company.

Tesla did not reply to a Reuters request for comment.

The Dojo supercomputer was designed around custom training chips to process vast amounts of data and video from Tesla EVs to train the automaker's autonomous-driving software.

"It doesn't make sense for Tesla to divide its resources and scale two quite different AI chip designs," Musk said in an X post late on Thursday.

"The Tesla AI5, AI6 and subsequent chips will be excellent for inference and at least pretty good for training. All effort is focused on that," he said, without directly mentioning Dojo.

Morgan Stanley analysts led by Adam Jonas valued the Dojo supercomputer at $500 billion in 2023, saying it opened a new market for the automaker beyond cars sales, similar to how Amazon's cloud unit boosts profit for the ecommerce firm.

"Dojo is the key accelerant at the intersection of hardware and software," the brokerage said on August 4. Jonas did not immediately respond to a query if the latest development would hurt Tesla's valuation.

Tech companies are increasingly designing custom chips to cut latency, power and cost, while consolidating around fewer architectures.

Tesla has been restructuring over the past year, with its share price slumping as sales of its EVs were hit by rising competition and a backlash by European consumers in particular against Musk's political views. **Reuters**

BITS & BYTES

PINTEREST IN RED

Pinterest shares plunged about 15% on Friday after the image-sharing platform warned of weaker ad spending in the U.S., its biggest market, due to the removal of the "de minimis" trade loophole.

Tariffs-driven uncertainty and a suspension of the exemption that allowed packages valued at or under $800 to be shipped to the US without facing import duties have forced some Asian e-commerce companies to scale back their US marketing budgets. **Reuters**

SOFTWARE ON WHEELS

Software-Defined Vehicles (SDVs) are rapidly transforming the automotive industry by shifting intelligence from hardware to software, a report said on Friday.

The study highlights how this evolution is enabling greater automation, personalisation, and innovation in vehicle design and performance, market intelligence firm 1Lattice said in its report. Unlike traditional vehicles built around fixed hardware systems, SDVs operate on modular, programmable platforms.

This allows manufacturers to remotely add new features, upgrade existing capabilities, and reduce reliance on physical recalls, all through over-the-air (OTA) software updates, the report stated. **IANS**

STABLECOINS PAUSED

Chinese regulators have asked big local brokers to halt publication of research endorsing stablecoins in a bid to curb a surge in interest in the digital currency among domestic investors, two sources familiar with the matter said. While crypto trading is banned in mainland China, brokerages have received a wave of requests for information on stablecoin and digital assets from Chinese investors since Hong Kong passed a stablecoin bill in May, sources at the brokerages say.

Some major brokerages received guidance from market regulators in late July and earlier this month pushing them to discontinue publishing research notes and making public comments on stablecoins, the sources said. **Reuters**

HEALTH TIP: Morning protein may help you decrease night snacking and calories during the day

Certain cheeses such as the Swiss and mozzarella variants contain more B12 compared to others

BETTER TOGETHER

What to say and how to help if someone close to you has attempted suicide

If someone close to you has attempted suicide, you may be feeling scared, confused or overwhelmed.

You're not alone – the most recent data shows more than one in three Australians have been close to someone who has died by or attempted suicide.

Talking about suicide can be really hard. But your support can make a big difference. Here's what you can do to support someone after a suicide attempt.

It's OK not to have all the answers

The days and weeks after a suicide attempt are often full of intense emotion — for the person who attempted and those who care about them.

Your loved one might feel guilt, shame, anger, confusion or relief. They might also be tired, both physically and emotionally. Meanwhile, you might feel worried, shocked, helpless, or unsure about what to say.

All of these feelings are normal. There's no "right" way to feel in this situation. But staying connected and offering care (even in small ways) is one of the most powerful things you can do.

How you can help: emotional support

It's OK to acknowledge the suicide attempt – avoiding it can add to feelings of stigma or isolation. But you don't need to ask for details, and if you feel overwhelmed it's also OK to set gentle boundaries.

If you're unsure what to say, you can be honest about that.

Just be there. Let your loved one know you're there to listen, without pressure or judgement.

Don't rush the conversation. If they're not ready to talk, that's OK. Let them set the pace.

Avoid guilt or blame. Saying things like "how could you do this to us?" can make someone feel worse. Instead, say something like: "I'm really glad you're still here. I care about you."

Reassure them. Tell them they're not alone and that it's OK to ask for help.

How you can help: practical support

Offer help with everyday tasks, such as going to appointments, making meals or tidying up.

Encourage (but don't force) activities they enjoy – maybe a walk, a movie, or just hanging out quietly.

If you're not sure what would help, ask. Try: "What would make today a bit easier for you?"

Try not to take it personally if they seem withdrawn or say "nothing will help". They may be feeling overwhelmed.

Stay with them, if they're open to it, or check in later with a text message. Small acts that don't require a response, such as dropping off a meal, can go a long way.

You don't have to do this alone

Supporting someone after a suicide attempt can be both physically and emotionally draining. You might find yourself constantly alert, watching for signs they might be struggling again. This "hypervigilance" is normal, but remember – you don't have to do this alone.

One person is not a support network. While your care and support make a real difference, professional help is essential too, whether from a psychologist, doctor or counsellor.

It can also help to bring in other trusted people, such as siblings, parents, friends or teachers. Ask your loved one who they'd like to involve, and how.

Support works best when shared.

If you're worried it might happen again

Mental health professionals often help create a safety plan after a suicide attempt.

This is a step-by-step guide for what to do if suicidal thoughts come back. It usually includes information such as warning signs, how to reduce immediate risks, and strategies to use in the moment.

A plan can also involve personal motivations to keep going and a list of resources, trusted people and emergency contacts.

If you want to – and your loved one is open to it – ask if you can be part of the plan or at least know what to do if they're in crisis again.

Don't forget: your wellbeing matters too

This situation can take a toll on your own wellbeing. You might feel anxious, tired, sad, or even guilty, and struggle with sleep or appetite.

It's OK to not be OK.

Make time to look after yourself – eat well, rest, move your body and talk to people you trust. You don't need to share private details about your loved one to get the support you need.

If it feels overwhelming, speak to a doctor or therapist. Your GP can help set up a mental health treatment plan, which helps you access subsidised counselling.

And if you ever have thoughts of suicide yourself, or you're deeply worried about someone, reach out – help is available 24/7.

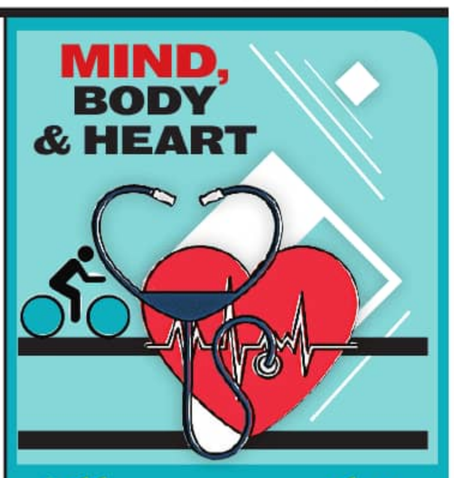
Recovery is different for everyone

Recovery after a suicide attempt doesn't follow a set path – it's different for everyone. It may involve professional support, medication, changes in routine, or time off from work or school. Rebuilding takes time and often comes with ups and downs.

Patience and compassion – for your loved one and yourself – can make all the difference.

Remember, you're not alone, and there is help available.

(By Milena Heinsch and Campbell Tickner, University of Tasmania, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Cut sugar craving

1. Nutritional Meals
Constant sugar cravings might just be your body's way of trying to tell you something. They could point towards magnesium, vitamin B, and zinc deficiencies. These nutrients play a big role in glucose production and help balance insulin and energy levels in the body. To combat cravings caused by deficiencies, eradicate the cause—eat foods like spinach, avocado, banana, milk, and peas to increase these nutrients in your body.

2. Balanced Meals
A balanced meal should include complex carbohydrates, good fats, protein, seasonal vegetables and fruits, and a variety of spices. According to Ayurveda, meals throughout the day should incorporate all six tastes—sweet, sour, salty, pungent (spicy), bitter, and astringent. Each taste plays a vital role in supporting physical and emotional health, and no flavour is less important than the others.

3. Timely Meals
You must eat at the right time to efficiently curb cravings. Eating at scheduled times daily helps your body feel safe. It begins to understand when it'll receive food and energy next, which stabilises sugar levels and significantly reduces the risk of binge eating. Eating at odd hours or with inconsistent gaps confuses your body. It struggles to regulate hormones, causing sudden spikes in cortisol and insulin, leading to intense sugar cravings and binge eating episodes.

4. Hydration
Most of the time thirst is confused with hunger, causing one to indulge in overeating. Ensuring that you are hydrated and having enough water throughout the day is extremely important, as it helps flush out toxins from the body, supports proper digestion and boosts energy and cognitive functions.

—Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Study identifies reasons behind deadly weight loss in cancer patients

Increasing weight loss experienced by cancer patients that often leads to deaths may be caused by communication between the brain and liver, according to a study.

Nearly a third of cancer-related deaths are caused by cachexia -- a currently incurable metabolic syndrome that involves substantial weight loss, including depletion of muscle mass and body fat.

It also contributes to therapy resistance and increases mortality among affected patients.

Researchers from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel and the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, US, have discovered that one of the reasons for this loss is disrupted communication between the brain and the liver.

When the activity of the vagus nerve -- a major axis of brain-liver communication -- is dysregulated by cancer-triggered inflammation, the result is damage to liver metabolism and the development of the life-threatening syndrome.

The prevalence of cachexia in cancer patients is as high as 85 per cent in some cancers; it is among the highest in pancreatic and lung tumours, said researchers led by Dr. Naama Darzi at Weizmann and Dr. Aliesha Garrett at MD Anderson.

The study, published in the journal Cell, showed that targeted blocking of the right vagus nerve -- even when performed by noninvasive means -- prevented cachexia's development in mice, enhanced their response to chemotherapy, and improved their overall health and survival.— IANS

High-net worth star

A look at the second richest actress in India

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan is one of the most well-known stars in the entertainment world. Thanks to her successful acting career, she's not only gained fame but also built a huge fortune. Here's a look at her achievements, lavish life, net worth, and more.

As per a report by Siasat, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan is the second richest actress in India, with an estimated net worth of Rs 900 crore.

Known for her powerful performances, she is one of the highest paid stars in Bollywood. According to News18, the actress reportedly charges around Rs 10 crore per film. In addition to acting, she also earns Rs 6–7 crore for endorsing high-end Indian and international brands. Her strong brand presence has helped her maintain her global popularity.

Besides acting and brand endorsements, Ash has also stepped into the world of business. Thanks to her smart investments, she is considered one of Bollywood's most successful businesswomen. When it comes to real estate, she owns several luxurious properties. She currently lives in a grand bungalow in Bandra, Mumbai, worth over Rs 50 crore. She also owns a stunning villa in Dubai's upscale Sanctuary Falls at Jumeirah Golf Estates, highlighting her taste for luxury living.

—ETimes

Family album

Global sensation Priyanka Chopra is making the best of both worlds. Along with dominating Hollywood with back-to-back powerful performances, the diva is also enjoying motherhood to the fullest with her dear daughter, Malti Marie Chopra Jonas.

PeeCee used social media to drop some precious family moments of little Malti with her mom, and father, Nick Jonas.

The primary photo showed Malti relaxing on her seat while Priyanka held a tablet with "Mama" written on it. Next was a video of the little munchkin enjoying in the middle of a fountain.

Another picture featured Malti and her buddies picking out some treats for themselves in the candy shop. We also see daddy's little princess accompanying her father Nick as he practises for his upcoming performance. PeeCee also uploaded a still of Malti channeling her inner artist with some watercolors and a canvas. One of the videos in the post had Priyanka and Malti running in their lush green backyard.

—IANS

Sweet fruits of patience

After years of anticipation, Ahaan Panday has finally made his much-awaited silver screen debut with 'Saiyaara'. Ahaan's entry into Bollywood might seem sudden, but it has been a long journey for him to reach this point. It has been a journey of nine years.

In a conversation with The Hollywood Reporter India, YRF's casting director Shanoo Sharma opened up about Ahaan's long and demanding road to stardom.

She revealed that Ahaan, along with actress Sharvari (who debuted in Bunty Aur Babli 2 in 2021), underwent rigorous training before even stepping in front of the camera.

"The first three years went into training. We trained, and we trained, we got, Sharvari was also on that bandwagon. So we got Sharvari and him to do improvisation and scenes, and scenes, and scenes. So I was training them personally," Shanoo recalled.

Just as things seemed to be falling into place, the COVID-19 pandemic brought everything to a halt, forcing Ahaan into a longer waiting period. Not one to sit idle, he chose to gain behind-the-scenes experience by working as an assistant director on 'The Railway Men'.

When asked whether Ahaan ever felt disheartened by the delays, Shanoo shared, "He saw the world moving ahead, he saw everybody from his generation moving ahead. I don't know, I think it must have irked him within, and you could see that if you really knew him well enough, but I don't think it ever broke his spirit." **— ETimes**

Rain song

The makers of the upcoming film "Param Sundari" have released a new song titled 'Bheegi Saree,' featuring Sidharth Malhotra and Janhvi Kapoor.

Set against the backdrop of rain, the romantic track captures the duo's sizzling on-screen chemistry. Sharing the song on Instagram, the makers wrote, "Pyaar ki barsaat lekar, Bheegi bheegi saree is here… all set to drench your heart in love! #BheegiSaree in the iconic voices of Shreya Ghoshal and Adnan Sami is OUT NOW! #BheegiSaree Song Out Now."

In the track, Janhvi Kapoor mesmerises in a saree as she performs sensuous dance moves, while the rain-soaked setting adds to the romantic mood. The song also captures intimate moments between her and Sidharth, highlighting their sizzling on-screen chemistry.

Talking about her experience of shooting the song, Janhvi shared, "Rain songs have always held a special place in our films, there's something so timeless and magical about them. I've grown up watching some of the most iconic moments in cinema unfold in the rain, and to now be a part of that legacy with Bheegi Saree feels surreal.

Shooting this song felt like slipping into a classic Bollywood dream, dancing in the rain, feeling every beat and emotion it was pure joy." **— ETimes**

Date with Batman

Fans of Robert Pattinson's 'Batman' finally have a reason to celebrate. Warner Bros. Discovery has confirmed that 'The Batman Part II' will begin filming in spring 2026. The film is set to release in theatres on October 1, 2027, reported Variety.

According to the publication, the update was shared in the company's recent letter to shareholders, where it also praised the success of Superman, directed by James Gunn.

The new Superman movie has earned nearly $550 million at the global box office so far.

In the letter, Warner Bros. called the DC Universe "one of the most valuable assets in entertainment" and shared updates about other upcoming DC projects. These include 'Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow and Clayface' in 2026, and a new 'Wonder Woman' film. The letter also confirmed that The Batman Part II is part of this big vision.

"In film, James Gunn is busy preparing the next instalments of the DC super family, including 'Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow' (2026), 'Clayface' (2026) and the next 'Wonder Woman.' In addition, 'The Batman II' (2027) is preparing to begin shooting next spring, among several other projects in development..." **—ANI**

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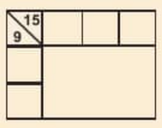
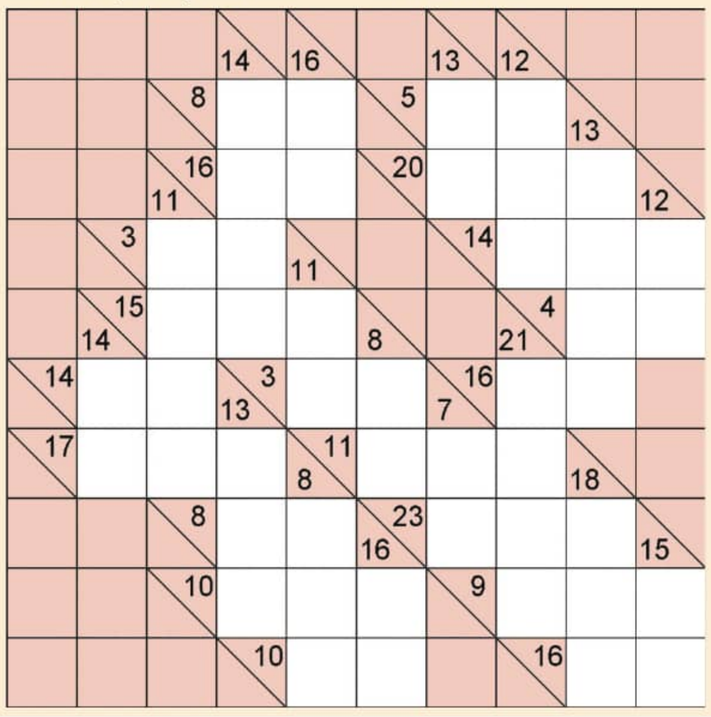
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

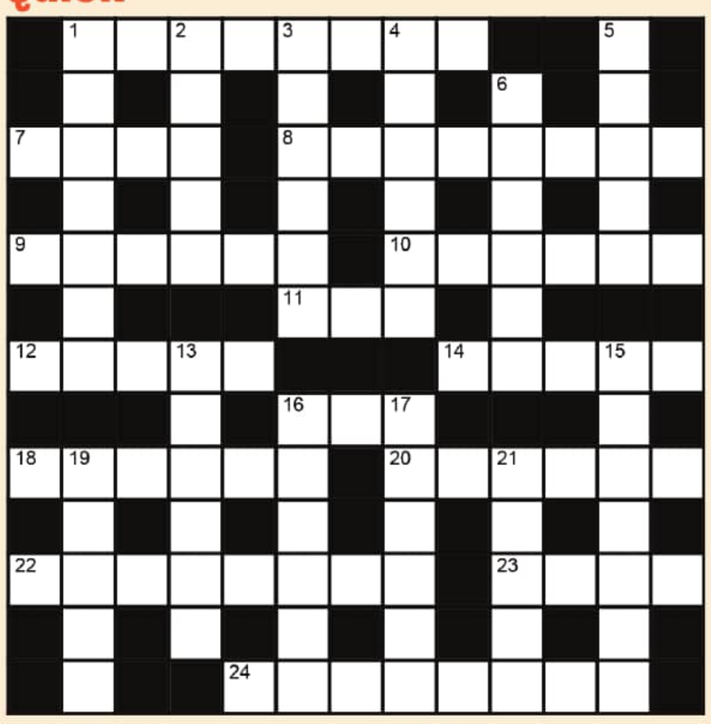
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Bunches of things growing together (8)
7 Without hair (4)
8 Cover for a letter (8)
9 Married (6)
10 Dramatizes or performs (6)
11 Looked at (3)
12 Desert region of Gujarat (5)
14 Armed robbery (5)
16 A type of adhesive (3)
18 Aircraft shed (6)
20 English university town (6)
22 Butts in (informal) (8)
23 Popular pub in Indira Nagar (4)
24 Damage evaluator (8)

DOWN

1 French castle (7)
2 Reversed (5)
3 Tendencies (6)
4 Critique (6)
5 Computer data (5)
6 Dotage (3,3)
13 Slang word for basketball players? (6)
15 More bad-tempered (7)
16 Evaluates, marks or rates (6)
17 Creamy dish (6)
19 Per ___: yearly (5)
21 Outdoor parties (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: W EQUALS G

ZAM UCOOAN GFUCSG NPG BGFSAOFVXVIVNZ AE NAKABBAD XZ GJCQVOW VN NAQCZ.

Linemaro

You've got to refer me to your plastic surgeon

Mindchow

My life has been filled with terrible misfortune; most of which never happened

Joke of the day

When your children are teenagers, it's important to have a dog so that someone in the house is happy to see you

Loop

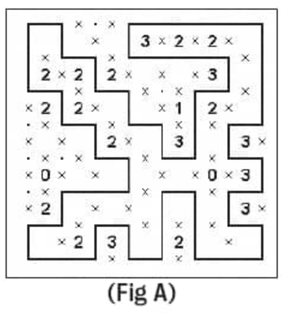
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

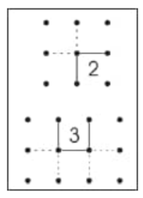
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

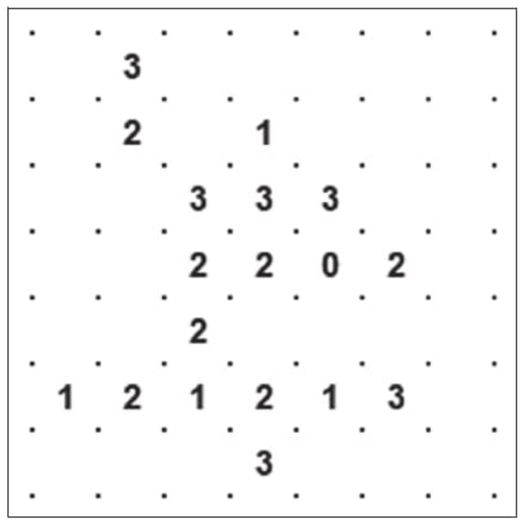
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



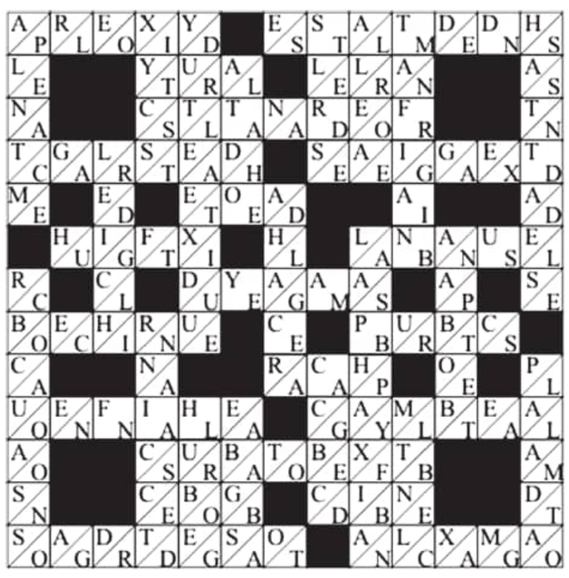
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



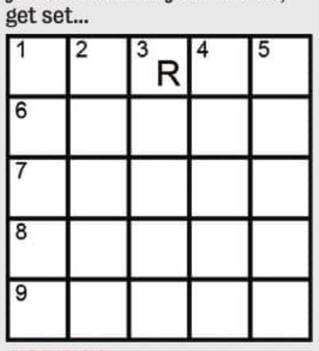
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

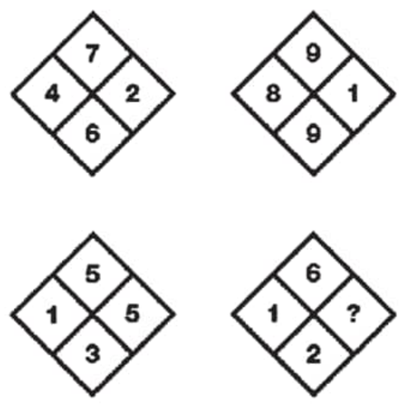
1 Mayor; 6 Are ZU; 7 Gee NS; 8 I rune; 9 Scape

DOWN

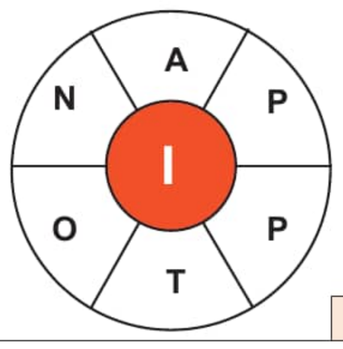
1 Gamic; 2 A Zone; 3 Up urn (3-2); 4 Raree; 5 Essey

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2			5		4			3
		6				5		
	5		3	2	1		4	
5		7				8		6
			6		7			
9		4				3		5
	2		1	7	5		3	
		3				9		
8			4		9			1

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 8

2 3 5 8

Medium = 5

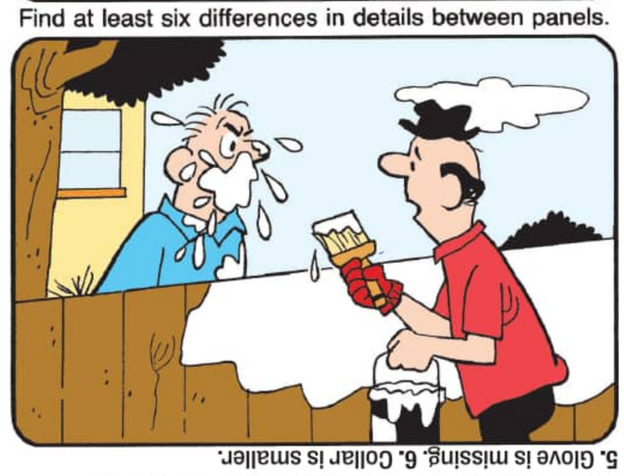
2 2 3 3

Hard = 34

1 3 4 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Brush is smaller. 2. Bush is moved. 3. Man has less hair. 4. Bottom of shirt is different. 5. Glove is missing. 6. Collar is smaller.

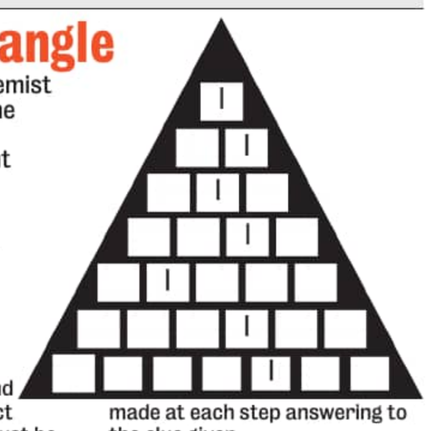
Riddler

Below are definitions of words (with the length of the word in parentheses), followed by a clue for a broken version of the word. Can you decipher the three words below?

1. Certain Evening (9)...Tiny chess piece
2. Deed Subjects (10)...Cravats that are suitable
3. Ne'er-do-well (11)...Onion performing hip-hop music

Alpha triangle

1 Iodine for the chemist
2 51 in ancient Rome
3 Fib
4 Face concealment
5 Resides
6 Imposes a tax
7 Difficult to catch



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

LET'S LOOK IN YOUR CRYSTAL BALL AND SEE HOW THOROUGHLY MY ROCKET BOMB DESTROYED POPEYE!
WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE SMOKE TO CLEAR!
?
!
WHEE-eee! 'AT WAS A GOOD FIGHT.'
HEH!
popeye.com
11-12
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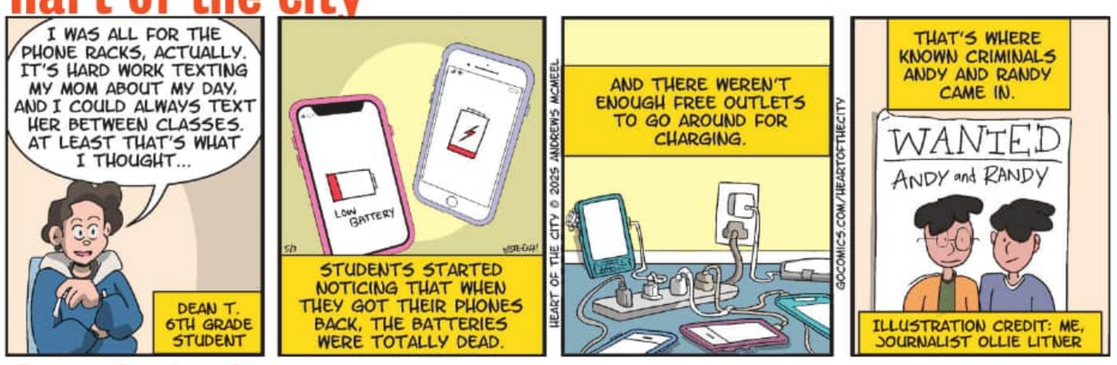
BIL ZIEGENDORF

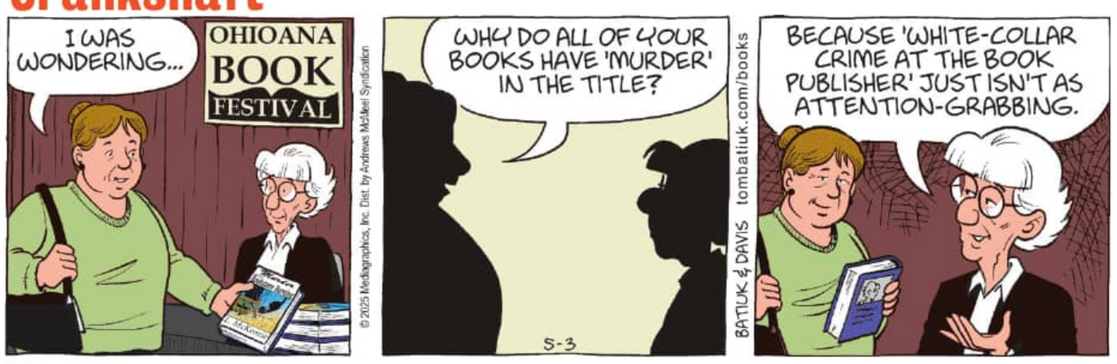
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


I WAS ALL FOR THE PHONE RACKS, ACTUALLY. IT'S HARD WORK TEXTING MY MOM ABOUT MY DAY, AND I COULD ALWAYS TEXT HER BETWEEN CLASSES. AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...
DEAN T. 6TH GRADE STUDENT
LOW BATTERY
STUDENTS STARTED NOTICING THAT WHEN THEY GOT THEIR PHONES BACK, THE BATTERIES WERE TOTALLY DEAD.
AND THERE WEREN'T ENOUGH FREE OUTLETS TO GO AROUND FOR CHARGING.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
THAT'S WHERE KNOWN CRIMINALS ANDY AND RANDY CAME IN.
WANTED
ANDY and RANDY
ILLUSTRATION CREDIT: ME, JOURNALIST OLLIE LITNER

Crankshaft


I WAS WONDERING...
OHIOANA BOOK FESTIVAL
WHY DO ALL OF YOUR BOOKS HAVE 'MURDER' IN THE TITLE?
BECAUSE 'WHITE-COLLAR CRIME AT THE BOOK PUBLISHER' JUST ISN'T AS ATTENTION-GRABBING.
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BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
5-3

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Today, you may reconnect with old friends or attend a social gathering, bringing excitement and joy. Innovative ideas may emerge, especially in business, potentially leading to unexpected material gains. Children might bring good news related to their studies. Romantic relationships will flourish with meaningful quality time.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

The Moon blesses you today, and small investments could yield significant returns. Your work efficiency is on the rise, helping you achieve results with minimal effort. Legal matters may turn in your favour, and you'll likely gain the upper hand over opponents and rivals.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Today's Moon influence brings success with minimal effort. Past investments may yield profits, and your hard work will be recognised in both personal and professional spheres. Your reputation may rise. A new business innovation could begin, and marital disputes are likely to be resolved.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Your mood and circumstances improve today. Support from your network may help advance your career. You might plan overseas travel, and your creative side will shine in your personal life. Domestic harmony increases, and you may plan an outing or movie with loved ones.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Fatigue due to overwork may make you feel sluggish and unfocused today. Patience is key. Avoid adventurous travel for now. Past investments may not yield expected results. Students need to stay focused. Take care of your back, nervous system, liver, and skin.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Your creativity is heightened today. You may renovate your home or office, which could boost your social status. Domestic life becomes more harmonious, and disputes with friends, coworkers, or partners are likely to resolve. Positive news in legal matters may also arrive.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

You'll feel content today, as you successfully balance income and expenses. Financial conditions may improve. Your social network will support your goals, and assistance from siblings or subordinates will be helpful. You may visit elders or a spiritual place for blessings.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Lack of sleep may affect your mood and focus, reducing work efficiency. A visit to a religious place might bring peace. By evening, blessings from elders may help you reflect, identify mistakes, and plan ahead. Be attentive to your parents' health.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

You may feel a bit low until afternoon, which might impact your productivity. However, elders' support will help you regain energy. Pay extra attention to your children's health. You'll have an edge over enemies. Be cautious with investment decisions. Digestive issues might trouble you.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Today brings happiness at work. You're likely to make key decisions by day's end that will benefit your future. A short trip might be on the cards. Support from colleagues is expected, and good news from siblings may uplift you. Students will stay focused on their goals, and legal outcomes may favour you.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

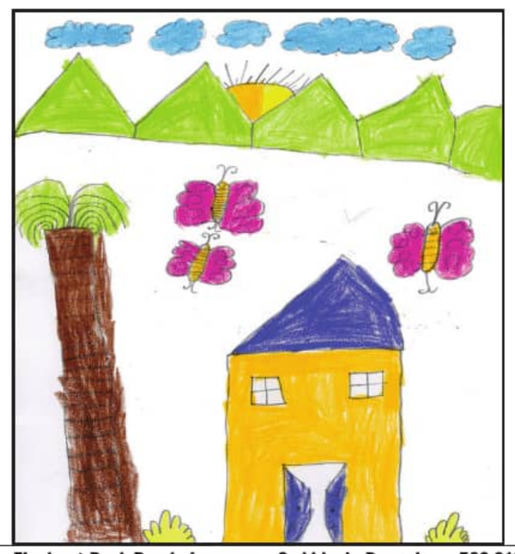
Your communication skills will be especially strong today and may help advance your career. You'll show extra politeness, which accelerates task completion. Romantic partners may enjoy open conversations, building a stronger foundation for their relationship.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

The Moon's blessings energise you today. A new partnership may bring fruitful results. Your enthusiasm and hard work are likely to bring financial success. Your sense of self-respect will shield you from negativity, helping you stay focused and motivated.

KIDZONE

Chinmayi, Bengaluru



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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

=√(10-8)(10+8)+∛(3²+2 x 3)
=√(2 x 18) + ∛(3²)
=√36 + ∛(3²)
=6+3 = 9

RIDDLER

1. Weeknight...Wee Knight,
2. Properties...Proper Ties,
3. Rapscallion...Rap Scallion

FAST FIVE

M	O	R	A	Y
A	Z	U	R	E
G	E	N	E	S
I	N	U	R	E
C	A	P	E	S

BULL'S EYE

APPOINT, inapt, into, iota, pain, paint, patio, piano, plnt, pinto, point

STRIKE OUT

P	R	O	X	Y	S	T	A	M	E	N	S	A
L	Y	U	L	E	R	A	A	N
A	S	L	A	N	D	E	R	N
C	A	R	T	E	D	S	A	G	G	E	D
E	E	T	E	A	I	A
H	I	F	I	L	A	N	N	U	L
C	C	D	E	G	A	S	A	S
O	C	H	R	E	P	U	B	S	P
C	A	R	A	H	O	P
O	N	F	I	L	E	C	Y	M	B	A	L
N	S	U	B	T	E	X	T	A
S	A	D	D	E	S	T	A	L	A	M	O	T

QUICK

C	L	U	S	T	E	R	S	I
H	N	R	E	O	N
B	A	L	D	E	N	V	E	L	O	P	E
T	I	N	I	D	U
W	E	D	D	E	D	E	N	A	C	T	S
K	U	T	C	H	H	E	I	S	T
A	S	W	G
C	O	M	E	S	S	E	S	O	R
H	A	N	G	A	R	O	X	F	O	R	D
U	G	U	M
N	E	A	R	U	E	L
I	N	T	R	U	D	E	S	T	O	I	T
S	E	E
L	I	N	E	S
M	A	S	A	M
R

MENSA PUZZLE

2. In each square, multiply the top and bottom numbers together to give a 2 digit result, and write this result in the left and right hand spaces.

QUOTE UNCODE

You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.

SUDOKU

8	7	5	4	3	9	2	6	1
1	4	3	2	8	6	9	5	7
6	2	9	1	7	5	4	3	8
9	6	4	8	1	2	3	7	5
3	8	2	6	5	7	1	9	4
5	1	7	9	4	3	8	2	6
7	5	8	3	2	1	6	4	9
4	3	6	7	9	8	5	1	2
2	9	1	5	6	4	7	8	3

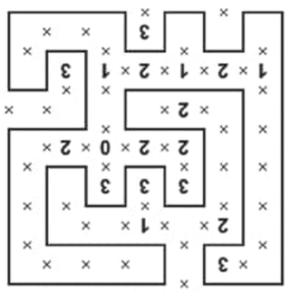
ALPHA TRIANGLE

I, LI, Lie, Veil, Lives, Levies, Elusive.

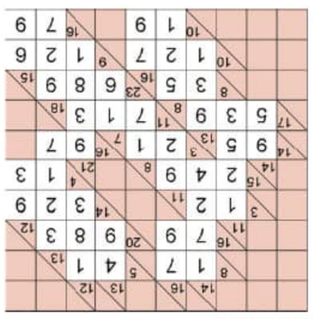
GO FIGURE

2 - 5 + 2 + 3 + 8 = 8
Easy
3 x 2 + 2 - 3 = 5
Medium
4 x 8 + 3 - 1 = 34
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO



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ET The Economic Times

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HT

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